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REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 8-14 and 22-30 are allowed. Claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Li. Claims 2-14 and 16-30 were indicated to be allowable. Claim 15 is currently amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 15 are allowable because a plurality of nodes **establish an initial bootstrap topology** and then distribute routing information over that topology. The Office cites column 10, lines 25-39 in Li as teaching establishment of the initial bootstrap topology, suggesting that the claimed nodes are equivalent to the border devices. The cited passage reads as follows:

Thus, the present invention may be embodied as a method for distributing multicast routing information over a PIM domain. The PIM domain includes a plurality of interconnected PIM devices and a plurality of border devices. The method involves selecting a bootstrap device from among the plurality of PIM devices, collecting interdomain multicast routing information from the plurality of border devices by the bootstrap device, and distributing the interdomain multicast routing information over the PIM domain. Collecting multicast routes from the plurality of border devices involves, for each border device, opening a communication connection, such as a TCP connection, to the border device and obtaining the interdomain multicast routing information from the border device over the communication connection, for example, using an interior routing protocol such as IBGP.

Applicant is unable to find any teaching in that passage of the claimed function of establishing an initial bootstrap topology. Indeed, Applicant asserts that the passage actually teaches that a "bootstrap device" collects routing information from the border devices. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 15 is therefore requested.

The specification has been updated as requested in the OA. In particular, the serial numbers of the related applications have been inserted. Informalities in the specification and claim 15 have also been corrected.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date


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